

At the age of seventeen he joined the U.S. Navy, working as a jet mechanic and later patrolling the coast of Vietnam. After completing his military service, he worked various jobs while simultaneously earning a high school diploma, a degree from Fresno City College, and eventually a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology and a minor in Business from California State University, Fresno.

After working as a representative of Ford Motor Co., Mr. Vidmar established Anlin Window Systems in Fresno, moving the company to Clovis in 1999. The company grew to encompass 350 employees and earned many accolades, including its designation by this very House as an "Industrial Business of the Year." It is well known not only for being a successful company, but also for the icons of Americana and the U.S. flags that adorn its building, as well as its Fourth of July military tributes and Christmas displays.

These characteristics reflected the qualities of the company's founder. Mr. Vidmar was a deeply religious man and an altruistic member of the community who supported a wide array of local charitable activities. He was a great patriot and proud family man whose sons, both of whom were among Anlin's very first employees, now help run the family business. He leaves behind his wife Linda, two sons, eight grandchildren, and a community that is grateful for all his contributions.

SAN BRUNO 4TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, four years ago today, a massive explosion killed eight of my constituents, injured 66, and destroyed 38 homes, and scarred a San Bruno neighborhood.

The fire roared for 90 minutes until PG&E finally located the gas line's manual shut-off valve. Last week the California Public Utilities Commission recommended a \$1.4 billion fine. Their punishment must send a message to all utilities across the country: putting profits before safety has serious consequences.

We're good at passing legislation that doesn't solve problems and patting ourselves on the back. The fact that there have been ten more explosions since then shows we must do more. That's why I'll be introducing legislation that will adopt recommendations from the National Transportation Safety Board including requiring auto and remote shut off valves and hydrostatic testing.

Please join me in honoring the families of the Crestmoor neighborhood and the first responders. I also ask you to join me in remembering the lives of Jacqueline Greig [Greg], Janessa Greig [Greg], Jessica Morales, Elizabeth Torres, Lavonne Bullis, Greg Bullis, Will Bullis, and James Emil Franco.

RECOGNIZING THE 2014 GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of the Green Schools Caucus to highlight the important contributions of the Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program and to congratulate all the schools recognized as 2014 Green Ribbon Schools. This program began in 2011, and seeks to encourage schools, school districts, and institutions of higher education to adopt practices focused on sustainability, health, and environmental education.

The Green Ribbon Schools Program offers awards for outstanding performance based on three categories of achievement. Schools and districts are first evaluated on the basis of success in reducing their overall environmental impact. The award also evaluates school and district strategies to improve the health and wellness of students and staff. Lastly, the Green Ribbon Schools Program examines the extent to which environmental education is offered, and whether those programs incorporate STEM subjects, civics, and green career counseling. All those recognized this year have made exceptional strides in each of these areas.

Those recognized are invited to Washington, DC each year to share their experiences and discuss best practices with other leaders in the field. This process of sharing information and highlighting the achievements of individual schools and districts offers an incentive for others to work toward a common goal of a more sustainable future. It also offers the chance for school officials to compare and contrast strategies for improving curriculums, engage on ways to implement these strategies, and share their successes with others.

At a time when we seek to reduce our carbon footprint, initiatives such as the Green Ribbon Schools Program are a valuable step toward lessening our impact on the environment and educating others as how best to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment. Our schools are well positioned to be leaders in the effort to combat climate change and I commend those schools and districts who have chosen to participate.

Congratulations again to those who have been recognized as 2014 Green Ribbon Schools.

HONORING THE EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the East Bay Regional Park District upon its 80th anniversary. Since its founding in 1934, the District has provided Alameda County and Contra Costa County residents with healthy recreation and environmental education. Encompassing over 65 parks and 114,000 acres of land, the East Bay Regional Park District is the largest regional park district in the United States.

The East Bay Regional Park District emerged from a popular movement during the Great Depression that sought to provide residents with recreational opportunities and employment. The District began by developing parks within the region, including Temescal, Tilden and Sibley Regional Parks. By 1939, it started the process of acquiring land for Redwood Regional Park.

Today, over 25 million people visit East Bay parks annually to walk, hike, bicycle and jog on the parks' 1,200 miles of trails. In addition, visitors have the opportunity to swim, boat and fish at the District's nine park lakes and twelve beaches. The District also hosts nine interpretive centers that educate visitors about the region's cultural history, wildlife and natural features.

The East Bay Regional Park District has received numerous accolades for its dedication to natural preservation and East Bay recreation. It has received the California Parks and Recreation Society's Award for Excellence for Creating Community for its exceptional community-building efforts through park-related events, one of five awards it has received from the Society in the past six years.

I personally appreciate the impact that the East Bay Regional Park District has on our youth. When I was a girl growing up in El Paso, Texas, my sister and I broke barriers by being the only African Americans in our Girl Scout troop. We were fortunate to have access to nature through the Girl Scouts, and it impressed upon me at an early age the need to preserve outdoor open spaces where young children can learn about nature, the importance of our ecosystem and environment, and to have a natural environment in which to play. For the youth who grow up in highly urbanized East Bay cities, East Bay parks represent an environment that can broaden a child's perspectives of space and coexistence with nature.

I commend the East Bay Regional Park District for providing our community with a wellspring of recreational and educational opportunity for the past 80 years. The District's continual efforts to foster community and learning benefit all Bay Area residents and visitors.

On behalf of the residents of California's 13th Congressional District, I extend my congratulations on this important milestone and thank all of the people who have contributed to the success of the East Bay Regional Park District throughout the years. I wish the District continued success in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF LEONARD AND MARY BRYANT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bryant who have been married 57 years and serve as clergy in Lee County, Alabama.

Leonard and Mary Bryant met in Sunday School at Green Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. They attended Southern Union and Selma University graduating with a degree in Theology. They were married on October 6, 1957.

The Bryants have lived in Opelika their entire lives and have been pastor at three churches in Waverly, Dadeville and Fort Davis, all in Alabama.

Leonard and Mary raised four daughters including: Lindie Bryant-Payne, Carmella Bryant-McGhee, Dale Bryant-Williams and Janyce Bryant. They have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Leonard and Mary Bryant for their tireless service in the Lee County community.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize September 12, 2014 as National School Spirit Day, which was created to recognize the great efforts of cheerleaders on behalf of their schools and communities. On this day, cheer teams nationwide will galvanize their schools to perform community service projects.

Varsity Brands began National School Spirit Day in 2009 in order to highlight all of the ways our nation's cheerleaders and dancers make a difference in their schools and communities as mentors, community service leaders, and positive role models. As part of National School Spirit Day, cheerleaders and dancers will hold pep rallies, and invite all students to volunteer with local charities and perform at least four hours of community service.

Students have volunteered in a number of ways including by visiting community nursing homes, cleaning school facilities and grounds, fundraising for charities, getting involved with the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and holding car washes for charity. Since 2009, cheerleaders and dancers have pledged more than 500,000 community service hours as a result of National School Spirit Day efforts. National School Spirit Day is an opportunity for America's future leaders to stand out and have a positive impact in their communities.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in recognizing September 12, 2014 as National School Spirit Day.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENARY OF THE PASSENGER PIGEON'S EXTINCTION AND THE PASSENGER PIGEON PROJECT

HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following.

Whereas; the Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius*, was once the most abundant bird in North America with a population exceeding 3 billion; and

Whereas; due to unregulated market hunting in the 19th century, the population plummeted towards extinction; and

Whereas; the death of Martha, the last Passenger Pigeon, on September 1, 1914, and

the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon helped assemble the American conservation movement of the early 20th century; and

Whereas; the story of the Passenger Pigeon can serve as a cautionary tale and raise awareness of current issues related to human-caused extinction, explore connections between humans and nature, and inspire the building of sustainable relationships with other species; and

Whereas; the history of the Passenger Pigeon is relevant today due to the fact more than 30 percent of amphibians are threatened with extinction, many species of birds, bats and honeybees are in rapid decline and when it is projected that 25 percent of the U.S.'s native plant species may go extinct by mid-century; and

Whereas; Project Passenger Pigeon, a consortium of over 150 institutions, scientists, conservationists, educators, artists, musicians, filmmakers and others throughout the nation is using the centenary of the species extinction to tell the story of the Passenger Pigeon; and

Whereas; the story of the Passenger Pigeon, once an example of nature's abundance, and its subsequent extinction is unique to American history;

Now Therefore, be it known that the undersigned Member of the United States Congress, the Honorable L. Tammy Duckworth of the Eighth Congressional District of Illinois, hereby recognizes the anniversary of the Passenger Pigeon's extinction and its importance in remembering our natural heritage and nation's wildlife and the role we can play in conserving them.

HONORING GARY LESSER

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Gary Lesser, who has received the 2014 American Jewish Committee Judge Learned Hand award for his outstanding accomplishments in the legal profession and exemplary service to the community. Gary is an individual dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical legal standards and has displayed a level of commitment to his clients and profession that can be admired by all.

Gary Lesser is the Managing Partner of Lesser, Lesser, Landy, & Smith, PLLC, and concentrates in general personal injury matters. As a member of the Florida Bar Board of Governors and past chair of the Florida Bar Professional Ethics Committee, Gary has demonstrated an incredible commitment to the ethical practice of law. Highly regarded in the legal community, he is frequently called upon to lecture on personal injury law and various ethics issues and has been interviewed by local and national media regarding cases, important ethical and legal issues, and his service to the community. Aside from his successes in the legal profession, Gary is also a devoted member of the Jewish community. He has served as Chair of the Jewish Federation Business & Professions Cabinet and as Legal and Fundraising Vice President of the Arthur Meyer Jewish Academy, where he has been a member of the Board of Directors for over twenty years.

It is a privilege to represent a district with citizens who not only work tirelessly to help those in need but strive to achieve a higher professional standard. His passion and dedication is an inspiration to the Jewish community, and I have no doubt that we will continue to see great things from Gary in the future.

HONORING DEREK JETER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of history's most distinguished New York Yankees, Derek Jeter. Derek has spent the last 20 years thrilling Bronx residents and Yankees fans across the nation with his unparalleled performances on the field. He has been one of the greatest shortstops in the modern game, and as his final season comes to a close, he has received many accolades and messages of thanks for his dedication to this illustrious franchise.

Derek Jeter has spent his entire career with the Yankees organization, from the time he was drafted as an 18-year-old out of Kalamazoo, Michigan. He has excelled at whatever he was asked to do for the organization, and has led the Yankees during one of their most successful eras. During his time as a Yankee, the organization has won 5 World Series, and Derek played an important part in those victories. His incredible baseball skills are only surpassed by the maturity and leadership he has shown on the field. In almost every aspect, he has earned the nickname bestowed upon him: The Captain.

His statistics show what an influence he has had on the field, and his hard work and success has been recognized by baseball fans, writers, and peers. He won the Rookie of the Year award in his first full season in the American League, and went on to become a 14-time All-Star and a 5-time Golden Glove winner. He has a lifetime average of .310, and has amassed an astounding 3,448 hits as of Friday, September 5th, a total surpassed by only 5 other players in baseball history. He has been even more vital when the Yankees have needed it most—during his seven World Series appearances, he batted .321, and was named MVP of the 2000 World Series.

Derek has also led in his actions off the field. Through the Turn 2 Foundation, a charity he founded in 1996, Derek has helped children in Western Michigan, New York City, and the Tampa-St. Petersburg area to live healthier lives and to turn away from drugs and alcohol. In New York City, the foundation has partnered with the New York City Parks and Recreation Department to create four free after-school programs that serve more than 300 children.

Derek Jeter will be retiring at the end of this season, ending an illustrious, Hall of Fame-worthy career. He has become a part of the fabric of the Yankees and of the Bronx. Although we will get used to seeing him succeed in other endeavors, for Yankees fans it will be difficult to imagine the shortstop position without number 2 there. I congratulate Derek on an outstanding career, thank him for his contributions to the Yankees and to the